

REMARKS

The last Office Action of May 24, 2004 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of the instant application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4 and 13 have been amended. Claim 3 has been canceled. Claims 14-16 have been added. A total of 15 claims is now on file. An amendment to the specification has been made. No fee is due.

It is noted that the title is objected to because it is considered non-descriptive.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,190,212 B1 to Brown et al..

Claims 3, 4, 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,282,753 to Su.

Claims 7-9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,454,612 B1 to Wang.

OBJECTION TO THE TITLE

Applicant has changed the title to read -- ELECTRICAL POWER PLUG WITH SECURE POSITIONING OF THE CONTACT PRONGS -- to be descriptive

of the present invention. Withdrawal of the objection to the title is thus respectfully requested.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 2, 5, 6, AND 13 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

In order to distinguish the present invention from Brown et al., applicant has amended claims 1 and 13 by incorporating a reference to an engagement member, and a detent and setting forth their positional relationship. Support therefore can be found, e.g. in Fig. 4, showing the detent (15) and the engagement member (16) in offset relationship. Reference is also made to paragraph [0030], lines 6, 7 and paragraph [0032] of the instant specification. In amending claims 1 and 13, the subject matter of claim 3 has been effectively incorporated, whereby the term "detent" has been used instead of "locking member" for reasons of consistency and clarity, because the description part of the instant specification refers to locking member in conjunction with the catches (31). The specification has been amended likewise to avoid any ambiguity.

In addition, applicant submits herewith new claims 14 to 16 which set forth features relating to the engagement member and detent. The 90° relationship between the engagement member and the detent, as set forth in claim 14, is shown in Figs. 3 and 4. The configuration of the engagement member in the form of a post, as set forth in claim 15, is described in paragraph [0030] of the instant specification, and the upright configuration of the post and the detent is clearly

shown in Fig. 4. Support for the subject matter of claim 16 can also be found in Fig. 4.

As a result of the incorporation of the subject matter of claim 3 in claim 1, and in view of that fact that Brown et al. fail to disclose the arrangement of an engagement member and a detent and their interaction with the stops, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) becomes moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is thus respectfully requested.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 3, 4, 7-11 AND 12 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

As stated above, claim 1 has been amended by including a reference to an engagement member and a detent in cooperation with two stops.

The Examiner correctly noted that Brown et al. do not disclose an engagement member for cooperation with a stop. In addition, Brown et al. fail to disclose also the provision of a detent to interact with another stop, and fails to disclose the positional relationship between the engagement member and the detent.

The Su reference has been applied by the Examiner in combination with Brown et al. to show the provision of a hook-shaped locking member. Su describes an electric plug having a hook-shaped locking member (15) for engagement of a stop (51) of one contact prong, and a finger (14) for engaging a depression (31) formed on **another** contact prong. In contrast thereto, the

present invention describes an electric plug in which a same contact prong has two stops for respective engagement of two engagement members. Reference is made in particular to Fig. 4, showing the engagement of post (16) and detent (15) with the stops (21, 22) of the contact prong (2c).

For the reasons set forth above, it is applicant's contention that neither Brown nor Su, nor a combination thereof teaches or suggests the features of the present invention, as recited in claim 1.

As for the rejection of the retained dependent claims, these claims depend on claim 1, share its presumably allowable features, and therefore it is respectfully submitted that these claims should also be allowed.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4, 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and allowance of claims 1, 2, 4-16 are thus respectfully requested.

CITED REFERENCES

Applicant has also carefully scrutinized the further applied and cited prior art and finds it without any relevance to the newly submitted claims. It is thus felt that no specific discussion thereof is necessary.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that when the Examiner reconsiders the claims in the light of the above comments, he will agree that the invention is in no way properly

met or anticipated or even suggested by any of the references however they are considered.

In view of the above presented remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all claims on file should be considered patentably differentiated over the art and should be allowed.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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